

The Watauga Democrat.

VOL. XXVI

BOONE, WATAUGA COUNTY, THURSDAY, SEPT. 10, 1914.

NO. 7.

The Troubles of a Neutral.

Baltimore Sun.

Some very interesting and delicate questions are coming to the front in connection with the position which the United States occupies toward the European belligerents. As the only neutral world power, they are presenting to us many perplexing points for consideration. Emperor William addressed a note indirectly to the President some time ago virtually asking greater sympathy in this country for Germany and better understanding of her situation and of the causes which impelled her to take up arms. France came to us and requested something more substantial—a loan; Belgium appeals to protest in the name of humanity against the dropping of shells into Antwerp by Zeppelins; Mr. H. G. Wells fervently implores us not to send any grain or food supplies to Holland lest some of them should be sold across the border into Germany, and thus enable that country to prolong the war; and now France protests against the purchase of German merchant vessels by our government because that would increase Germany's financial resources and if these vessels should carry food supplies to Germany via Rotterdam, or otherwise, the French ambassador contends that we would be violating our neutrality by giving solid aid and comfort to the enemy of France.

It will thus be seen that while we are exempt from the evils of actual war, we are sailing in very troubled waters. We may evade or decline to express an opinion about points which wholly concern the belligerents, but when it comes to questions in which we ourselves are concerned we will be "up against" some puzzling propositions. The most puzzling, as well as one of the most difficult, is that raised by Mr. Wells, and in another form in the French protest against our purchase of German ships. We refused recently to allow France to negotiate a loan in this country on the ground that the money would be virtually a contribution to her war chest and would be a violation of our duty as a neutral by adding this much to her fighting strength. If we buy these German ships, the \$25,000,000, or \$50,000,000 we pay for them will help Germany materially, and if we employ them to carry food to Rotterdam we shall be helping to feed the Kaiser's army. We are not prepared to deny that there may not be some apparent inconsistency, at least, between our refusal to lend France money and our handing over to Germany \$50,000,000 in ships that she cannot use. Perhaps the similarity between the principle of the two cases, may be more superficial than solid. But, without discussing such distinction as may exist between them, it must be conceded that, so far as the effect is concerned, the result would be the same. If we buy so many million dollars worth of bottled-up German ships, Germany profits to that extent; and if any of them carry food supplies to a port from which they can be easily conveyed to Germany, she profits that much more.

Constipation Causes Sickness.

Don't permit yourself to become constipated, as your system immediately begins to absorb poison from the backed-up waste matter. Use Dr. King's New Life Pills and keep well. There is no better safeguard against illness. Just take one dose tonight. 25c. at your Druggist.

War and Barbarism.

Asheville Citizen.

If it be true that the historic Belgian city of Louvain, with some of its buildings dating back five and six hundred years, has been wondrously burned by the German invaders, an act directly in violation of the rules of civilized warfare, assuming that warfare can be civilized at all, the Kaiser's forces deserve to forfeit the last vestige of sympathy, and merit world-wide condemnation. Following so closely upon the reported dropping of bombs upon the sleeping inhabitants of Antwerp by a German airship, one is led to the conclusion that the Germans are wilfully ignoring all set codes of warfare, and are fighting as the savage fights.

We are assuming, of course, that there is no longer any question as to the veracity of the reports. We are well aware that many wild rumors have been sent over the cables as "news" and that the color of a war dispatch depends entirely upon its source. Thus dispatches by way of London and Paris lean largely, if not altogether, to the side of the allies, while news sent out from Berlin is seen entirely through German glasses. The newspapers are presenting what little news they get through these conflicting sources, and thus there is ground for hope that the barbarous practices said to have been indulged in by the Germans are the invention of their enemies. It is so hard to conceive that a nation so far advanced in the arts, science and literature, as Germany is admitted to be, should lend itself to the wilful slaughter of non-combatants and should destroy and lay waste even as the Huns and Goths laid waste centuries ago. For we are supposed to be living in a day of civilization, and not in the stone age.

There are other stories of barbarity and gross cruelty which we will not repeat here, for war at its best is horrible enough without the frightful exaggerations which it creates. It is more than likely that the veil of strict censorship which enshrouds the operations of the warring forces has made news-gatherers desperate, until they have reached the point where they will send any report under the guise of news. At least, let us hope that these are the real conditions, and that these are the real conditions and that the sensational stories now afloat are pure inventions.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

The announcement has been made of the approaching marriage of Miss Ruth Bradshaw, daughter of Rev. and Mrs. W. R. Bradshaw, of Hickory, to Mr. E. N. Carr on the 16th. Mr. Bradshaw has many friends and admirers in Watauga who will wish for his daughter all that will make her happy.

Infection And Insect Bites Dangerous.

Mosquitoes, flies and other insects which breed quickly in garbage pails, ponds of stagnant water, barns, musty places, etc., are carriers of disease. Every time the bite you, they inject poison into your system from which some dread disease may result. Get a bottle of Sloan's Liniment. It is antiseptic and a few drops will neutralize the infection caused by insect bites or rusty nails. Sloan's Liniment disinfects cuts, bruises and sores. You cannot afford to be without it in your home. Money back if not satisfied. Only 25c. at your druggist.

Letter from Rev. W. E. Isenhour.

EDITOR DEMOCRAT: Since coming back to Siloam, in Surry county, I have thought many times of my friends in Watauga and the cheerful greetings they gave me when I was with them last. It was a happy meeting for us after having been absent from them many months. We were pleased to greet each other and talk of old times when we were together so much. We also delighted in talking of the happenings since our separation and how life has been spent in the service of the Master, and of the victories won through Christ and for His glory. It was all delightful to talk of and gave us new courage to press forward and try to achieve greater things and greater victories than had ever been gained. Such talks really inspire us to fight more bravely other battles, and give us greater aspirations to make our mark in the world, and to reach the climax of a successful and ideal life. They are all worth while—these little talks and pleasant reviews of life.

The people of Watauga know that I am a young man started out in the great world for a good purpose, namely, to win souls for Christ. This is my great mission in life, and to this end I am working. Long since I have had an earnest desire to do something that will be worth while—worth living for, that which will make the world brighter and better and will live after me. So I am laboring to this end, and mean to win by the help of my heavenly Father. But to come up in life has been quite hard for me in many respects. I have gone forth in life and labored under many adverse circumstances, and overcome many obstacles, in order to accomplish something in life and to help others to, also. The way, so far, has been one of difficulty, mingled with crosses and burdens. I have not sailed along on "flowery beds of ease" with attainments in life coming at mere wishes. But through incessant endeavor and never-dying perseverance, with God as my helper, (praise his holy name) I am what I am. And still I hope and intend to become ere I come to the last and closing scenes of life, if I am permitted to live much longer. Please pray for me, dear friends, when you see this in your county paper.

Praying God's richest blessings upon you all, and the dear old county of Watauga, the land of my nativity, and hoping to meet you in a better, brighter place some glad and happy day, where the trials of this life shall have passed forever, I am,
Yours in Christ,
WALTER E. ISENHOUR.
Siloam, N. C.

No use advertising for the return of lost time.

DESTROYING CIVILIZATION.

Harold Bigbie in London Daily Chronicle.

Russia calls a million sixteenth century peasants from the fields, and Germany mows them down. Another million takes their places. Death again. Another million. Another million. And yet another million of these sixteenth century peasants. And when it is all over those who are left will go back to their fields.

But Germany, France, England, particularly England and Germany, where will they turn when the million dead are shovelled under bloody soil? The bricks and mortar of industry may be still standing; but where will credit be found? And what will the millions of starving factory hands be doing? Happy the Russian peasant who will go back to his sixteenth century and his field, telling the time by the sun's shadow. Industry in Europe, with other things of older date, will be in ruins.

Armaments have broken the back of the laborer, and with the fall of the laborer all things fall, all things come to the earth. Because the war lords, and only because of the war lords, the man of science is paralyzed and civilization stops. Humanity has been fooled. Too late to discover it.

Remember this, too. Among the young conscript soldiers of Europe who will die in thousands and perhaps millions, are the very flower of civilization; we shall destroy brains which might have discovered for us in 10 or 20 years easements for the worst of human pains and solutions for the worst of social dangers. We shall blot those souls out of our common existence. We shall destroy utterly those splendid burning spirits reaching out to enlighten our darkness. Our fathers destroyed those strange and valuable creatures whom they called "witches." We are destroying the brightest of our angels.

At least, then, let us not get drunk. At least, then, let us not sing beastly songs. Honor may call us to fight, self-preservation may force us into the slaughter house, but let us wear on our sleeves the crape of mourning for a civilization that had the promise of joy, and strike our enemy without a hiccup or a curse. Never shall we know again what is now perishing. And we shall want all our strength for tomorrow.

Summer Coughs Are Dangerous.

Summer colds are dangerous. They indicate low vitality and often lead to serious throat and lung troubles, including Consumption. Dr. King's New Discovery will relieve the cough or cold promptly and prevent complications. It is soothing and antiseptic and makes you feel better at once. To delay is dangerous—get a bottle of Dr. King's New Discovery at once. Money back if not satisfied. 50c. and 1.00 bottles at your Druggist.

When the Luck Turns.

Columbia State.

Any mathematician will tell you that there is no such thing as "luck." There is only a law of chances. Any student of life, and especially of political life, will tell you that "luck" the hitting of the right moment in the right place, is the greatest asset of all. There are millionaire gamblers, the law of chances to the contrary, and there are politicians who have become great by forces of no greater genius than the blind fortune of backing the right card at the right time.

The gamblers who are millionaires, however, have "quit the game" or if they have not quit, their millions are forfeit to the length of their lives. The luck turns. Not always will the goddess of Luck smile on her most favored swain. The trouble with gamblers, with cards, with dice, with life, that they almost invariably "overstay" their play. The successful gambler is almost always the gambler who died when "they were running away."

Our friend Roosevelt never had to take any chances with the Goddess of Chance. She ran him into a corner, embraced him with favors, kissed him on both cheeks, and exalted him.

Now, however, it appears that the colonel has presumed too much on the lady's affections. His effort to play fast and loose with his New York progressives has ignominiously failed. He attempted to give them Hinman as a candidate for governor, with the expectation that Hinman would capture the republican convention and that Roosevelt would thus swallow two stones with one cherry.

Both the republicans and the progressives repudiate the bargain. Roosevelt, left with Hinman on his hands, characteristically repudiated the man to whom he had pledged his support. But the signs indicate that he cannot turn this betrayal into a virtue, as he has turned others. The colonel's diplomacy is becoming too well known. He is being subjected to an acid test of common honesty that he is in no wise prepared to stand.

Every indication is that the colonel has laid down one bet too many on the green cloth.

Summer Constipation Dangerous.

Constipation in Summer-time is more dangerous than in the Fall, Winter or Spring. The food you eat is often contaminated and is more likely to ferment in your stomach. Then you are apt to drink much cold water during the hot weather, thus injuring your stomach. Colic, Fever, Ptoimaine Poisoning and other ills are natural results. Po-Do-Lax will keep you well, as it increases the bile, of natural laxative, which rids the bowels of the congested poisonous waste. Po-Do-Lax will make you feel better. Pleasant and effective. Take a dose to-night. 50c at all Druggists.

Star Route Carrier Frank Minton stopped his mail trip up the south side of the Yadkin Saturday after having carried mail on one route and another in Wilkes county 40 years, and 15 years on the river route; he never learned to read and write. It is said you could give him a considerable number of letters to deliver along the route and he would always get them right. The Watauga and Yadkin railroad now takes the mail up that way.—Hustler.

Children Cry FOR FLETCHER'S CASTORIA

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